

The EPA Proposes to Redesignate Truckee Meadows to Attainment for the Coarse Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard

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Summary

- The EPA is proposing to approve Nevada's plan for the Truckee Meadows area, also referred to as the Reno planning area, to maintain the inhalable coarse particulate matter 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (PM₁₀ NAAQS). These particles are commonly referred to as PM₁₀ because they have a diameter of ten micrometers or less.
- The EPA is also proposing to approve Nevada's request to redesignate Truckee Meadows to attainment for the PM₁₀ NAAQS.

Background

- Today's actions represent a milestone in air quality improvement in Nevada accomplished primarily through the actions of the Washoe County District Board of Health, whose regulations and programs have significantly reduced PM₁₀.
- In 2011 The EPA previously determined that Truckee Meadows had attained the PM₁₀ NAAQS. Complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air quality monitoring data for the area shows it has continued to attain the PM₁₀ NAAQS since that time.
- The EPA is concerned about PM₁₀ because these particles pass through the throat and nose and enter the lungs. Reducing PM₁₀ levels is essential because, once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health effects.
- PM₁₀ is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. In the Truckee Meadows area it is predominately comprised of "primary particulates," such as particles from soil or dust, residential wood burning, and diesel.

Next Steps

- Today's proposed actions will be published in the Federal Register in approximately two weeks and include a 30-day period for public comment.
- After the close of the comment period, the EPA will evaluate the comments and respond to them in subsequent rulemaking action.

For More Information:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html#washoe>